

Guard unit is expected to come home before the holidays. This will surely be an early Christmas present for many families across the region of the country I am here to serve. I look forward to welcoming them home.

All of our servicemembers deserve our full support year-round, but let us please take this holiday season as an opportunity to thank them for their sacrifices that they have given to their families and to our country. Let us be there for them now, because they are there for us.

AMERICA CAN DO BETTER

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we end this particular legislative session, I just wanted to rise and say that, on the one hand, the vast majority of Members voted to run the government of the United States prudently and within budget and to operate as adults over the next 2 years; on the other hand, the lack of a provision in that bill to accommodate those who are unemployed across this country is a sad commentary on the leadership of this House.

In the State of Ohio where Speaker BOEHNER hails from, over half of the counties in Ohio are above the national unemployment average of 7 percent, which is way too high for the country as a whole. For us as a Chamber not to be able to include, especially before Christmas and the holiday season, the extension of unemployment benefits even for a few months for people who will now face Christmas and the new year with even more worry and hardship is unconscionable for this Nation. I just know that we are capable of better.

I would suggest to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee that if you shaved 1 percent off of every account in the discretionary part of the budget, you would be able to find the money to extend the benefits for 3 more months, and then we can look toward a more permanent solution from the Ways and Means Committee.

I am thankful for the opportunity to make this important statement for the RECORD. America can do better for our unemployed.

NELSON MANDELA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this moment for the House to appropriately acknowledge the life and legacy, the truly extraordinary leadership, of President Nelson Mandela who has passed on to history now but who, during his 95 years, played an extraordinary role in the life of his country

and his countrymen. And this Congress played a part in that process through the debates on this floor and through, finally, the passage of sanctions and then, even more so, by overriding the Presidential veto and putting into place sanctions that President Mandela indicated and all recognized played an important role in ending apartheid in South Africa.

There are Members who are no longer Members of the House, some of whom have even passed on themselves. There was Congressman Bill Gray from Philadelphia, who authored the sanctions legislation; Congressman Dellums, who had previously authored and fought side by side; and many members of the Congressional Black Caucus and others, Democrats and Republicans, on the floor of this House who were involved in this activity.

I rise for this Special Order to appropriately pay tribute to the leadership that was exhibited by President Mandela and his African National Congress. I am going to yield to Members for an opportunity for them to reflect on the life of President Mandela. Obviously, we recognize that he was born and that he died, that he went to school and he played certain roles in his profession as a lawyer, but he has also been recognized around the world for the struggle that he led and that he dedicated his life to.

I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Mr. FATTAH, for leading this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the life and legacy of former South African President Nelson Mandela, a relentless pioneer for justice, equality, and democracy.

I am proud to say that members of the Congressional Black Caucus stood with President Mandela before it was popular or politically advantageous. Working with grassroots advocates, members of the Congressional Black Caucus and many others from across the world, Mandela activated a movement that not only spoke of democracy and equality, but realized those principles through action, meaningful action that ultimately broke the chains of apartheid and will be forever remembered as the legacy of Madiba.

Today, the CBC salutes the life of a world leader who sacrificed a lifetime for the ideals of democracy. Today, we celebrate the life of a man from humble beginnings who overcome the obstacles of racial intolerance and rose to lead a country and a people to prosperity and freedom. Today, we cherish the life of a President who led with dignity and strength. Today, we treasure the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. Madiba, you will forever be remembered.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlewoman, and I thank her for her leadership on this House floor on behalf of not just the people she represents in Ohio, but throughout the country.

I now yield to someone who is no stranger to struggle. Nelson Mandela, when asked about his life being a struggle, he said, No, you misinterpret; the struggle was my life. Well, the struggle is this gentleman's life. I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague for yielding.

I rise to join my colleagues to pay tribute to a man I deeply admire, President Nelson Mandela.

When I first met Mr. Mandela, I felt as if I was touching the spirit of greatness. He was tall and graceful with the common spirit of the Dalai Lama. President Mandela was one of those rare individuals, like Gandhi, Lincoln, or King, who come along only once in a generation and who are a lesson to all humanity. They teach us not just to liberate the body, but to free our minds and unleash the power of the human spirit.

This weekend, I had the honor of traveling with Members of the House and one Member of the Senate to attend an official memorial service in South Africa. I would like to thank the Speaker and his staff for working with Chairwoman Fudge to ensure that Congress was represented at this global tribute.

Tonight, I express my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of President Mandela. To the people of South Africa and the global community, we have lost a giant of a man who embodied grace, dignity, and peace. He just walked out of prison after 27 years without any bitterness, hostility, or hatred. And through the power of love and complete forgiveness, President Mandela not only freed the oppressed, but he also freed the oppressor.

What we know of his long walk to freedom, what he endured and what he overcome, has made us all a little more human. What he taught us about reconciliation, love, and inner peace inspires each and every person who knows his story to be better, stronger, more loving, more peaceful citizens of the global community. He was the father of a new South Africa who helped build a new nation, more focused on unity today than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, during the height of the civil rights movement, the chant of the African people became our chant: "One man, one vote." He was a great leader, but I never thought that I would have the honor of meeting him and calling him my friend, my brother.

During this holiday season, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers will use this time to reflect on how we can be representatives of the people, can continue to work in unity, extend the legacy of love of service and respect for all humankind as Mr. NELSON Mandela did.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I met President Mandela on a number of occasions, both in Philadelphia and here

in Washington, and when I traveled to Africa with then-President Bill Clinton when Mandela was leading some peace talks in a country that was involved in a great deal of conflict at that time.

Before I met Nelson Mandela, I knew a State legislator from the great State of California who had led the fight and the rallying cry in State houses, not just in California, but around the country, for divestiture from South Africa. I want to yield now to Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, who really was an extraordinary figure in the fight in the United States to get pension funds and universities and others to divest.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania for that warm introduction, and I want to thank the members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

We just returned from South Africa where we participated with thousands of folks from across South Africa memorializing Nelson Mandela. It was a wonderful moment in our lives. But, of course, Nelson Mandela has helped us all to be better persons. He has inspired us all in so many different ways.

When I was a member of the California State Legislature, I authored the legislation that divested all of our pension funds from doing business in South Africa. That legislation caught fire across the country.

□ 1915

And so that legislation caught fire across the country, and we had other divestment movements going on, and others divesting their funds from businesses that were doing business in South Africa.

We went on to have rallies and marches. We came to Washington, D.C. We got arrested at the South African Embassy.

We sat in in the South African consulate in Los Angeles. We worked with students on the college campuses. They got involved in divestment. Some of them took the names of the streets in those campuses down and made them Nelson Mandela Way. And as we worked and worked, we were instrumental in helping to free Nelson Mandela, who had served 27 years in prison.

In addition to that, some of us had the opportunity to go to South Africa when they lifted the ban on the ANC, and we witnessed all of those heroes who came back from out of exile. We continued to work with them until Nelson Mandela walked out free from having served that 27 years.

And then we were able to welcome him to the United States. In Los Angeles we put together a huge celebration, and when he and Winnie Mandela walked on that stage, the crowd just exploded. But it exploded because here was a man who had the courage of his convictions, a man that was so committed to freedom, justice, and equality that he was willing to put his life on the line.

He was a warrior, and he tried to negotiate. He tried to get the South African Government to realize that they should be recognizing that Black South Africans were human beings too. And when they didn't, he organized the struggle. He resisted and, of course, they placed him in prison.

And some people thought that we would never see Black South Africans free. But because of Nelson Mandela, and because the people loved him so, followed him as he led, today we have a free South Africa.

Mandela is gone. He is no longer with us, but he will be remembered forever because what he did was such a feat that we cannot identify anybody else, certainly in the 20th century, that led the way that he led.

So I am pleased to be here with my colleagues tonight paying tribute to him. I thank my colleagues for all the work that they too participated in to honor him.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlelady. And she reminds me of all the great people in Philadelphia who played a role, Godfrey Satoli, who represented the ANC. He was the ANC's representative there, and former State representatives David Richardson and Sonia Sanchez.

But the one clarion voice in the Congress when I was very, very young, who introduced the divestiture legislation, and was just at the very point of the spear, was Congressman Ron Dellums.

And BARBARA LEE, who now represents that district, but worked for the great Congressman when he was here, I want to recognize Congresswoman BARBARA LEE now, who has dedicated a significant part of her work to helping Africa in its development and continuing to deal with the challenges that remain after so many years of colonial rule in a number of these countries.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much. Let me thank you, Congressman FATTAH, first of all, for yielding and for your tremendous leadership on so many fronts. And thank you so much for this Special Order tonight and for reminding us in many ways of the history of this great movement that took place in this country.

Let me also just thank our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for her tremendous leadership and her tireless work and for the real humbling honor to be part of her delegation to South Africa to honor President Mandela. Also to Leader PELOSI and to our assistant leader, Mr. CLYBURN.

Let me just take a moment to extend my thoughts and prayers on behalf of my district to President Mandela's family, for South Africa. We all have lost a warrior. South Africa has lost a warrior. The world has lost a freedom fighter and a great statesman.

The Congressional Black Caucus stood alongside the ANC and Nelson

Mandela in the fight for equality and justice. And I am so proud of this contribution.

Even throughout his 27 years of incarceration and brutal treatment, his spirit was never broken, and this stands, really, as a testament to the power of resistance and determination.

Not only is Nelson Mandela the father of the liberation movement in South Africa, but he also laid the framework for modern liberation movements throughout the world.

With a dignified defiance, Nelson Mandela never compromised his political principles or the mission of the anti-apartheid movement, and he took up the mantle of fighting HIV and AIDS.

Like many of my colleagues, I was first inspired by Mr. Mandela in the early seventies. I was arrested in Berkeley, California, during the time when our brave brothers and sisters in the labor movement refused to unload ships carrying cargo from South Africa that arrived in Oakland's port.

My predecessor, former Congressman Ron Dellums, lead the effort with Congressman—our beloved Bill Gray—over and over and over again introducing legislation calling for divestment against this racist apartheid regime. But they finally put the United States on the right side of history when the Congress overrode President Reagan's veto.

And I vividly remember that the ANC was designated a terrorist organization by the United States Government, and it was illegal to meet with the freedom fighters, but many of us did anyway. I remember meeting with ANC members at the United Nations in Switzerland and Austria to help map out our solidarity work here in the United States.

So you can imagine how I personally felt when I joined some of you as an election observer, seeing lines and lines of people waiting to vote for the first time for Nelson Mandela as the first Black President of a free South Africa.

One of my proudest moments as a Member of Congress was when I led the effort to remove President Mandela, a Nobel Peace Prize, and the ANC from the U.S. Terrorist Watch List in time for his 90th birthday, just 5 years ago.

What now lives is Madiba's legacy of sacrifice, fighting for what is right and as an example of the power of healing and reconciliation.

And I just have to say that legacy was shown briefly in the handshake of President Obama when he extended it to President Raoul Castro of Cuba. I was proud of that handshake for what it means for diplomacy and the possibility of opening lines of communication. That handshake stands with the legacy of Nelson Mandela, of working and negotiating with those with whom you may not agree.

As Madiba said, and I quote, "Reconciliation means working together to correct a legacy of past injustice." He was a peacemaker.

President Mandela taught us so many lessons, from reconciliation and

personal perseverance to the true meaning of public service. What he taught us was never to give up the fight for justice.

I had the privilege to meet Mr. Mandela many times. His serenity and his strength really were larger than life.

His legacy will live on forever in how we live our lives in the fight for freedom and for justice in a multiracial society.

Finally, let me just say that I hope, in his honor, that we live his legacy and continue our fight to end racism and to defend voting rights right here in the United States.

May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlelady from California.

I yield to my colleague from the United States Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you. I want to begin by thanking you, Congressman FATTAH, for bringing us together to dedicate this hour to the life and legacy of an iconic leader, who has truly fought the good fight, has now finished the race, and always kept the faith, our beloved Madiba, President Mandela of South Africa.

And to say to Congresswoman FUDGE, as I was honored to join her and my other colleagues and our codel leader, Congressman AARON SCHOCK, at the funeral of President Mandela in Johannesburg on Tuesday, I am again, honored to join all of you to speak on behalf of my constituents, the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, in tribute to this great man.

Behind me is a picture of the sign that marks the site of Mandela Circle in St. Thomas. It was given that name in jubilant celebration when he was released from prison after 27 years. And through it, the people of the Virgin Islands have paid tribute to Nelson Mandela every day.

I want to especially recognize and remember someone who I honored several years ago, a gentleman named Dale Rodgers, who, from the time the circle was so named until he died, took it upon himself to sweep and maintain the area so that it would always be a fitting tribute. The St. Thomas St. John Environmental Association will host a community gathering at that site on Saturday.

In the days since December 5, the people have gathered there with signs and flowers and have adorned the area with black and purple ribbons. There have been vigils and other ceremonial tributes.

Our flags, like flags across the country, were flown at half staff. And our Governor, John P. DeJongh, Jr., in tribute said, and I quote:

The people of the Virgin Islands have a deep love and respect for Nelson Mandela and all that he came to represent. Nelson Mandela was an inspiration to Virgin Islanders and to aspiring democracies and free nations around the world.

Tomorrow, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands will host a public trib-

ute. Our Senate President, Shawn Michael Malone, said in remembrance, and I quote him as well:

The world has lost a civil and human rights champion and oppressed people everywhere have lost a splendid example of sacrifice, discipline, commitment and resolve to end injustice around the world.

On Sunday, on St. Croix, one of our Senators, Senator Terrance Nelson, will lead a festive celebration of his life in Frederiksted's Buddho Park, which is the historic site where enslaved Africans seized freedom for my ancestors in the then-Danish West Indies in 1848.

But even when these celebrations are ended, it is my hope and prayer that the essence of why we celebrate Madiba remains firmly planted in our hearts and minds, for it would be the real tribute to a man who taught us how to be resolute in our fight for justice and equality to the end, and that love, peace and reconciliation is a better path for us and for the world than hatred, conflict and retribution, in fact, the only way to true freedom.

To his wife, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, to his extended family and all the people of South Africa, we extend our deepest sympathy, but also our deep appreciation, for you have given us, the people of the Virgin Islands, our Nation, and the world, a beautiful gift that has enriched our lives and inspired us to be better human beings.

I consider myself blessed not only to have met him, but just to have lived in the time of Nelson Mandela and to be able to personally bear witness to his life and legacy.

Madiba loved the CBC. The CBC loved and will always love Madiba.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlelady, and I thank the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands for establishing this honor.

Obviously, there are many segments of Nelson Mandela's life and there was a period, a point, when he was a lawyer. There was a point in which he was leading and involved in negotiations. There was a point in which, upon the police assault on those who gathered in Sharpeville when 69 died, that he took up armed struggle.

And there was a point, after being released from prison, after 27 years, that he was elected President. I embrace the entire legacy. I think it is very much in keeping with our own country's evolution over time, in which you had to deal with the times as they presented themselves.

Remembering her predecessor, Congressman Mickey Leland, who was so involved in these issues over time, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the Congressional Black Caucus and Mr. FATTAH and our chairwoman, Congresswoman FUDGE, for bringing us all together on this very important evening.

It gives me great privilege to be able to speak about this patriot, this human rights leader, this father and husband,

this man who experienced incarceration, yet came out with the limitations that would normally shackle anyone, completely released.

It is important to connect Nelson Mandela to Houston; and this signifies many of us who gathered in front of the Federal building just a week ago to be able to honor him and to acknowledge him. So many of us wanted to share and extend our love.

We also participated in honoring him in restaurants in southwest Houston. And throughout the week, as I go home this week, we will honor him at the George L. Brown Convention Center and the SHAPE Community Center.

Last Sunday I was able to call in to a very important honoring at the Rothco Chapel celebrating Dominique de Menil, who invited Nelson Mandela to Houston, Texas in 1991, 1 year after he was released from Robbens Island.

□ 1930

And the surprise and the excitement was that he accepted her invitation—the de Menils being great humanitarians themselves—and brought together the connection between Houston, the Nation, South Africa, and the patriot that Nelson Mandela, Madiba, was and, of course, we will always be reminded of.

We listen to the stories of the time that he had to pull away from the ANC to form a fighting unit, if you will, a rebel unit. And I also explain to people that it was no less than the patriots who stood on the shores of this country to fight against oppression and to stand against the British and to dump tea into the Boston Harbor, to rebel against oppression. So I would never call Nelson Mandela a terrorist. I would call him a patriot, one who loved his beloved South Africa and wanted to make sure that those who understood that apartheid could not stand would recognize that he had no other choice. But yet, in time, he was able to make other choices.

And I am reminded of his words: "courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it." And he triumphed over fear. But he also triumphed over bitterness. And he opened his arms, coming out of that incarceration in 1990 and walking in freedom, standing with his then-wife Winnie—and now the beloved wife who has been with him for the past 15 years. He expressed to the nation his humanity, his humility.

An elder statesman, a father figure, Nelson Mandela showed us that in the course of the debate here on the floor of the House that we should never forget the vulnerable.

I want to read these words that he gave in defense in the 1964 trial:

I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

I have met Nelson Mandela many times, engaged in the efforts to ensure that the apartheid oppression would end, joined with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE in 2008 to rid his name off the terrorist list. All of us in our small way are diminished by the commitment, dedication, and sacrifice of this man.

And so finally I close by saying to all in a letter that he wrote from Robben Island in April of 1971, for many of us who had the experience of walking into that cell and looking through those prison bars, to be reminded of the peace that he brought to the Nation and to the world:

There are times when my heart almost stops beating, slowed down by heavy loads of longing. I would love to bathe once more in the waters of Umbashe, as I did at the beginning of 1935.

He comforted himself by the wishes of hope. He comforted himself by wishing to hear the voices of children. He comforted himself by wanting to be what the people of South Africa needed, an unembittered leader coming forward to lift the country up.

Madiba, may you rest in peace. Nelson Mandela, thank you for your years of service. Thank you for leading South Africa. And thank you for leading the world.

I acknowledge and thank the many persons who have spoken today about Nelson Mandela.

On this sad day, the thoughts, prayers, and wishes of all Americans, and peace loving people the world over, are with Nelson Mandela and his family.

Nelson Mandela once said that "courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it."

What is the message and meaning of Nelson Mandela to the world?

Courage in the cause of moral righteousness will triumph in the end;

Love, forgiveness, and reconciliation is far more powerful than hatred, resentment, and war;

That we should "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Nelson Mandela's commitment to humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker, and as the first elected president of a free, democratic, and multiracial Republic of South Africa inspired the world.

Nelson Mandela dedicated his life to serving humanity and making the world better for our children.

Nelson Mandela once said that the one of things that bothered him most during his imprisonment was not being able to hear the laughter and experience the joy of children.

His life teaches us the importance of instilling in our children a zest for living and a love for serving others.

Today we honor the life and work of a man went from a militant freedom fighter, to political prisoner, to a unifying figure, to elder statesman of the world.

He was a father figure, elder statesman and global ambassador. He was the guarantee, almost like an insurance policy, that South Afri-

ca's young democracy and its leaders will pursue the nation's best interests. He led the campaign to defeat apartheid through non-violence, peace, and dialogue.

Nelson Mandela never allowed resentment to drive him away from the path of reconciliation. He emerged from prison to set free an entire nation; he shed the bonds of slave labor to reshape the fate of his people.

Nelson Mandela's life is the a story of courage and a triumph over fear, and unyielding faith in the power, promise, and possibility of the human spirit.

He inspired the world with his strength and perseverance, with his message of hope and his embrace of freedom. He shared that legacy of love and partnership with us 22 years ago this day when he came to Houston's Rothko Chapel on December 8, 1991 shortly after his release from prison.

May the life of Nelson Mandela long stand as the ultimate tribute to the triumph of hope in the quest for freedom.

As Nelson Mandela said: "To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

May it be a comfort to his family and to the people of South Africa that so many mourn the loss of this extraordinary man and world historic figure.

I will be remembering and thinking of these things as I travel to Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the memorial service of one of the greatest persons in the record history of mankind.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentle lady from the great State of Texas.

In 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected President. It is not of the same historical importance, but I was elected to the Congress that same year. But I am reminded that every day we are made anew.

And we have a new Congresswoman from the great State of Ohio, Congresswoman BEATTY, who I want to recognize now for her comments on the life of Nelson Mandela.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you, Mr. FATTAH, for organizing this Special Order hour for us.

First, let me say, as I stand here today, I am honored to talk about a man who is hard to define because he is a man who gave so much of his life, a man who understood that his success would be the success of the people around him.

Yesterday, I returned from South Africa where I had the distinct honor and pleasure to pay tribute to a man who inspired billions, for his courage, for his commitment to people, for his fight for justice, for equality, and for freedom.

Hundreds of thousands of people from around the world came there, witnessed it through electronic media, and gave their final respects to a man we love so dearly and call Madiba, a most beloved leader who liberated South Africa from apartheid. They waited for hours. They lined up. They filled the streets. And there I was, this new freshman with my Congressional Black Caucus members and Members from this Congress.

So I say to our chairwoman and president of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, a job well done for leading us, and to Congressman AARON SCHOCK, thank you for leading us on this delegation.

And as I sat there with my colleagues, we witnessed the spirit, the culture, and the evidence that a great man has gone on. We watched the spirit and the rhythm of the toyi-toyi and the dancers. And as the memorial service began, to have our President of these United States come and pay tribute to Nelson, within itself was a great honor.

Before his election in 1994, he gave up so much to rid his country of injustice. As we know, he spent 27 years, almost a third of his life, in prison, most of that time on Robben Island, which I had the opportunity to visit. Fourteen years living in a small cell without water or accommodations for his personal needs speaks volumes for him.

But to be able to see this firsthand, what Mandela endured in that tiny, isolated cell when I was there, to set his people free. Time and time again, Nelson Mandela had taught the world many powerful lessons about justice, tolerance, and reconciliation. He astonished us all with his ability to forgive, something that we should remember on this House floor, including his forgiveness for those who jailed him and persecuted his family.

Nelson Mandela, lastly, believed in people. He believed in communities. He believed in countries. And he believed in world change for the better, something that I think we are witnessing now with our first President of these United States, a man of color. So I say to us, let us remember his words. It seems impossible until it is done.

To you, Madiba, we say, a job well done. God bless you.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentle lady from the great State of Ohio.

And, obviously, when Nelson Mandela looked at the United States, one of the things that he was most interested in was the civil rights struggle in this country, understanding that African Americans who were fighting for the right to vote and for equal justice under the law, we were in a significant minority position demographically; whereas in South Africa, Black South Africans were the overwhelming majority in that country. And he was quite taken that the United States could right itself in such a way, at least legally, against the law that oppressed minorities here in our country, African Americans, in particular. He always was interested in this.

One of the persons who was uniquely involved in that and who serves with us in this House today is the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

Ms. NORTON. I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who is so honorably following the great example of his

predecessor Bill Gray in leading us today in the House and for all of the work that he has done in the House.

I want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus and particularly our chairman, MARCIA FUDGE, who led us on an exhausting but exhilarating trip to South Africa just this week. I want to thank the CBC—before I ever thought about coming to Congress—for their decades of work which was instrumental in release and the work of Nelson Mandela.

I went to South Africa earlier this week to share with South Africans their farewell to the father of their country, Madiba, the man who meant so much to millions of us, for his leadership throughout the world. And I went because, for me, he was a freedom-defining leader.

I knew Nelson Mandela before I met him. I was a member of the Free South Africa Movement that was particularly active here in the District of Columbia, the movement led by TransAfrica which became synonymous with Free Mandela.

Mr. Speaker, it was almost 30 years ago that four of us went into the South African Embassy—Randall Robinson; the head of TransAfrica, Dr. Mary Berry; my own predecessor, former Congressman Walter Fauntroy and I—who secured an appointment with the ambassador of South Africa, I must say, under false pretenses because we didn't intend to come out.

However, in those first arrests, we could not have imagined the cascade of events that followed. We did not imagine that from all over the country people would come to be arrested to free Mandela.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps least of all did I imagine that on his 95th birthday we would have a commemoration where the Democratic and the Republican leaders of this House would gather to celebrate Mandela's 95th birthday. If you can imagine the life of Nelson Mandela, there is so much about that life that was unimaginable.

And there are so many people to thank tonight because as I think about all of those who are connected with Mandela—because there are millions of them—I hope we do not forget those who led this movement, that we do not forget Bill Gray who was the sponsor of the sanctions bill and succeeded in overriding a veto to get it through the Congress of the United States. I hope we do not forget TransAfrica, which invented the struggle for freedom for Mandela, or Ron Dellums or former Senator Mike Lugar, who were sponsors of the bill. I hope we do not forget the hundreds of thousands who lobbied and picketed their State legislatures to divest pension funds from South Africa. It is very difficult to imagine that without collective action, Mandela would have been free to free his country.

Most of all, Mr. Speaker, tonight we thank Nelson Mandela himself. How do you thank a man for making the high-

est and best use of his best years, by spending them—almost 30 years—incarcerated and then coming out to peacefully and ever so gently lead his fellow South Africans to lay down their grievances—just as Martin Luther King said, “Lay down your arms”—laid down their grievances, rose above their painful scars, their own years of suffering, and to somehow march with him into a new multiracial South Africa. It is a South Africa which today, like Madiba, its great leader, is an example for the rest of the world.

Much of the rest of the world today I hope remembers Madiba not only for what his years of sacrifice meant but for how he used those years to bring peace in the last place where peace was expected.

I thank the gentleman for leading us tonight.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentlewoman for her extraordinary contributions to this remarkable occurrence in our lifetime, to see Mandela and his transformation from prison to President. I will have something more to say about that as we close.

But I want to recognize the gentle lady from the great State of New York, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, our new ambassador to South Africa who is doing an extraordinary job. I want to mention that she also, by the way, has the best birthday in the world because she shares it with me.

□ 1945

Ms. CLARKE of New York. I thank Congressman FATTAH for leading us in this Special Order in commemoration of “Madiba.”

I stand today to honor the memory of President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, a world leader of the highest order: an icon. His commitment to justice, equality, and the right to human dignity that must be afforded each individual person accorded him a moral authority that just could not be denied.

Nelson Mandela, affectionately known as Madiba, understood that the policy of apartheid was pure evil—a violation of our shared commitment to human rights and to the dignity of each individual.

Trained as an attorney, he became an activist. And for his activism, he was imprisoned in the very year that I was born, confined to a cell on Robben Island.

Through activism, he affirmed the ability of women and men to achieve freedom from the harshest forms of racial oppression and created a movement that inspired people worldwide. I, myself, as a young person was inspired by his example on the campus of Oberlin College, where, like many campuses across this Nation, we led a divestment movement.

I was within the enormous crowd of people in Brooklyn who cheered President Mandela upon his release from Robben Island. I remember the electricity in the air. Who could forget the

experience of cheering a man who had come to our shores, arrived in the very district that I represent today, and who transformed his Nation and the whole world, in saying the words: Free Nelson Mandela.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored and humbled to be a part of the congressional delegation that attended his memorial earlier this week and to pay my respects and that of my constituents in the Ninth Congressional District.

Nelson Mandela will remain forever an inspiration to those who believe in justice and equality and the promise of a better future for all of God's children.

Today, Madiba is truly free. We all mourn in tribute to a hero to men and women everywhere.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentle lady. I thank not just you, but all those who hail from your part of the country who helped in this struggle.

I will yield to the Congressman from the city of Newark, the State of New Jersey, Congressman DONALD PAYNE, Jr., who will speak on the life and legacy of President Nelson Mandela.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, Nelson Mandela, as we know, was a hero for social justice and a model of leadership for me and leaders around the globe. Born during the years of apartheid, he was a resilient democratic leader, a peacemaker, and inspiring fighter for racial equality.

As it has been stated and is a well-known fact, Mr. Mandela spent 27 years in prison. Let's look at that time in a little more detail.

He was jailed as a young man, with two young children, one of them being only 3 years old. He wasn't able to touch her again for 27 years. While in prison, his mother passes away and his first-born son dies in a tragic car accident, never being able to say good-bye. Also, during that time, his wife was subjected to both physical and mental abuse. She was locked up in prison for 16 months in solitary confinement.

So how does a person after all that strife and all that grief come out of prison and talk about reconciliation?

President Mandela never let his 27 years in prison deter him from doing what he knew was right by ending apartheid and bringing democracy to the country that he loved. Even in the face of extreme diversity, he has proven that, with a noble cause and internal will, one person can change the tide of oppression. One person can change an entire country and, in turn, the entire world.

Although I did not have the pleasure of meeting President Mandela, he has always been a role model to me. Likewise, he was an inspiration to my father, the late Congressman Donald Payne, who toiled on the continent of Africa for equal rights and humanity for all people, and especially in South Africa.

So I am thankful for his tireless years of service and for being an example to true leadership. My condolences and prayers go out to the Mandela family and to the country of South Africa

as the entire world mourns such a great loss.

Although Madiba is gone, his work and the imprint he has made on this world will never be forgotten.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman.

I now yield to the Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Thank you very much, Mr. FATTAH, for taking this Special Order as part of the Congressional Black Caucus period of mourning for President Mandela.

I was so proud that so many members from the CBC, Mr. McDERMOTT, and others went to South Africa to be present at the celebration of the life and the memorial services for President Mandela. I wish that I could have gone. In fact, I thought I was. So did Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. CLYBURN. But the business of the budget kept us here. Our thoughts and prayers were with all of you as we were at the National Cathedral yesterday.

What I came to the floor to say is I wish to associate myself with all the beautiful sentiments expressed by my colleagues about an icon in the world—a person that is so unique in history, not just in our lifetime, but in the history of the world.

When I was asked today some thoughts about President Mandela, I said that what he did reminded me of King Solomon. When King Solomon was to inherit the throne from his father, King David, he prayed to God with a great spirit of humility. In humility, he said: God, please give me the wisdom to be the king of your people and to follow in the footsteps of King David. Please give me wisdom and understanding so that I can do the job.

And God came back to him another night and said: Solomon, because you did not ask for longevity, vengeance upon your enemies, or great wealth, I will give you more wisdom and more understanding than any other person has ever had, and people will come from all around and your wisdom will be renowned in the world for ages to come.

It reminds me so much of Nelson Mandela because in his greatness was that spirit of humility—that humility that was open to wisdom, to understanding, to being in somebody else's place—that led him not to wish for a long life, though God gave him that; not to give him great wealth, which he did not possess; and certainly not to give him vengeance upon his enemies, because that was the opposite of what he was. In the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation, as our colleagues have discussed, and the great wisdom God gave him, as well as the long life, he was able to use that wisdom springing from that humility to understand other people's situations and then do great things, things that would make him renowned for ages to come for his wisdom and for his spirit.

I had the privilege of seeing President Mandela when he came to address

a joint session of Congress in 1994 as the President of South Africa. Afterward, Speaker Foley had a luncheon. He invited a large number of us to have lunch with President Mandela.

President Mandela spoke again at that luncheon, and what was sad about it was that he spoke about the price he paid to be the father of his country—at the expense of his being a father to his family. He talked about how it was to be separated from his family for over 26 years.

Imagine that, trying to meet the needs of his wife and children, and also has his need to be a father. He made quite a sacrifice. It was urgent that he do so.

But, again, in different periods of his life he demonstrated great courage, great determination, great strength, great persistence in prison, and great sadness about not seeing his family. And all of that strengthened him to say he really had to exploit the investments that had been made by the people of South Africa in the name Mandela. And he came out to be an example to the world of forgiveness, reconciliation, and of a strength unlike most of us have ever seen.

As a Californian, we take some ownership of the Mandela issue, whether it was stopping investments in South Africa and the rest. Ron Dellums was the champion of this. So we are proud of the role that we played in from the State of California.

It really is, again, in that same humility that is a virtue that we should all possess that I come to this floor to even talk about such a great person who went from a village, to a leader of a movement, to prison, to the presidency of South Africa; from a name that we heard in America, to a person who would address a joint session of Congress. But on top of all of that, to go from his village, to be a world icon.

Thank you, my colleague, for giving me the time.

Mr. FATTAH. Thank you, Madam Leader, for coming and sharing with us profound reflections on the life of President Mandela.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, who has done a lot of work in this House today.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I want to thank my friend, Mr. FATTAH; my friend, Ms. FUDGE; and the entire CBC for organizing this time to honor the life of Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela was a man who stood up so bravely to injustice. The power of his beautiful example inspired people around the world, stirred our hearts and stirred our conscience.

It was Nelson Mandela and the injustice of apartheid that first moved me to political activism. At the time, I was a student at Swarthmore College in the State of Pennsylvania. I joined the Swarthmore Antiapartheid Committee to urge and petition Swarthmore College to divest from South Africa. Young people at colleges around the country were moved to action.

I watched there as members of the Congressional Black Caucus here in the United States Congress worked to make sure that the United States stood up to the meaning that is in our founding creed that all people will be created equal. They were people like Congressman Gray and others, and Members who are members today of the CBC that are standing up.

And then, in 1985, I had the privilege of going to work as one of the foreign policy advisers to a great Maryland Senator by the name of Mac Mathias, who served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and was one of the sponsors of the legislation to impose economic sanctions against South Africa because of the evil of apartheid.

It was Senator Mathias, Senator Kennedy, and Senator Lugar, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, working in the Senate along with the CBC in the House of Representatives and others who said the United States cannot stand by while the evil of apartheid is in place. We must answer the call of Nelson Mandela.

□ 2000

Certainly, my proudest moment as a staff member to Senator Mathias on those days on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was, first, when the United States Congress passed that legislation and then on a bipartisan basis overrode the veto of then-President Reagan, showing how the democratic process in this country would work to stand up for justice.

As we confront issues here at home and around the world, we would do well by remembering the example of Nelson Mandela as we confront other issues of justice and peaceful reconciliation.

Mr. FATTAH. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Georgia.

To this list of Republicans who supported this effort, let me add the name of former Speaker Newt Gingrich, who supported the divestiture effort here in the House, and we want to appropriately recognize his contribution since he is from the great State of Georgia.

I yield to Congressman JOHNSON.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I thank you, Mr. FATTAH.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my distinguished colleagues in a tribute to the life of President Nelson Mandela. I do so with a heavy heart.

The people of South Africa and the world at large have lost a great human being and one of the finest leaders ever known. Although President Nelson Mandela has passed, his legacy and his vision remain vital, and they will remain with us. Madiba taught us how to live and also how to die. He inspired

hope in the people of South Africa. He set an example of leadership we would all do well to follow. He showed the world that an impassioned pursuit of justice could win over complacency and corruption.

I will always remember Nelson Mandela as a man and a movement. In 1990, not long after Mr. Mandela's release from jail, I attended a speech he gave at the Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia. Seeing this icon in the flesh and hearing his calm voice taught me something about the nature of true revolutionaries—that they are very real people.

Nelson Mandela was a real person who personally faced oppression. Facing that reality made his legend all the more inspiring to me. True progress is not beyond our reach. It is not a product of wishful thinking or of serendipity. Radical change comes from determination and integrity. His peaceful presence underscored the intensity of his resolve. He bravely sought to change the seemingly unshakable status quo. The consequences of his actions were severe, but they did not break him. He showed the world that no amount of brutality could overpower the will of a people determined to be free. Nelson Mandela worked tirelessly to channel the righteous anger of the oppressed into a positive and revolutionary change.

What impressed me the most about Nelson Mandela was his humble spirit of forgiveness and love towards those who persecuted him. Neither angry nor vindictive and with great courage and dignity, he endured 27 years in prison, sacrificing his liberty for the sake of all South Africans. Ultimately, he lived a life of triumph over evil and adversity, leaving the world a better place for his journey amongst us.

On behalf of the people of Georgia's Fourth Congressional District, my wife and myself, I celebrate his life, and will work in pursuit of his vision. The spirit of his life will remain in my heart for so long as I shall live.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material relative to the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. FATTAH. In closing, I would like the House to focus on the transformation of this man who moved from a prison cell to being the President of a nation.

Through his circumstance of 27 years, during which his picture or his name could not be spoken, he became a world figure. He could not have more than one visitor for 30 minutes in a 6-month period, but yet hundreds of thousands have gathered to memorialize him. Delegations from almost 100 countries will go to his funeral and

have gone to his home-going celebration. This is a man who traveled a great distance over these 95 years. He had the willingness to fight against oppression, and he had a willingness to reconcile with his oppressors in a way in which all could live in harmony.

He sets a great example for the world, so I thank the House for taking this time to honor his life and legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has inspired me and millions of people across the globe. He died last week at the age of 95, but lived a full life defined by a dedication to serve others and a simple, but all important, insistence that all citizens be treated with dignity and respect.

Serving as the first black president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela fought and sacrificed for civil rights in his home country. To Nelson Mandela, all were equal—peace and justice were to be shared among all races, religions, and nationalities. Beyond words, Mandela lived a life of leadership by example. His long and courageous opposition to South Africa's long and violent apartheid and relentless pursuit of freedom and justice was a profound example of moral leadership that will long be remembered.

A man not deterred or discouraged from his goals, Nelson Mandela was determined and unwavering in his fight for liberty. Beyond death, his life continues to serve as a daily inspiration for my public service, and I believe all of us can learn from Mandela's examples in forgiveness, hope, and sacrifice. South Africa and the world are better for the example of his life—his work laid the foundations for a bright future in South Africa and his vision of peace has been since shared around the globe.

His faith in God and commitment to the principles of freedom and justice for all are reflected in his favorite scripture from the Apostle Paul found in the 8th Chapter of Romans; 'Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' He would not be separated from his principles of justice for all, no matter the cost.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of South Africa in paying tribute to Mr. Nelson Mandela and his exceptional legacy as a world leader. May his family and all of the lives he touched be consoled and comforted by their faith in the Lord, along with the assurance that the courage of Nelson Mandela will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nelson Mandela—a man who leaves South Africa and the world a better place for his presence.

From a childhood herding cattle to an adulthood fighting for his people's freedom, Mandela's 95 years are a testament to the power of a single life to change the course of history.

And the arc of Mandela's life bends towards peace.

There are many ways to change the world. And too often, the world is changed:

By war
By violence
By conflict

But Mandela took the road less traveled and changed the world with his commitment:

To freedom for his oppressed people
To equality for all people—oppressed and oppressors alike

And ultimately to peace for a country deeply wounded by conflict.

From the prison walls of Robben Island to the halls of Pretoria and beyond, Mandela was only human but exemplified super-human courage.

But he was admittedly not a perfect man. And it is his imperfections that bring us closer to him.

And enable us to follow in his footsteps.

His legacy of reconciliation and forgiveness can live on in each one of us when we, too, take the road less traveled and act in the name of justice and in the name of peace.

Let us learn from Nelson Mandela and write the narrative of our lives with

Justice
Equality
And peace.

As Mandela said, "When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace."

Now is your time to rest in peace, Madiba.

As we honor you by promoting peace in our words, actions and deeds.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has inspired me and millions of people across the globe. He died last week at the age of 95, but lived a full life defined by a dedication to serve others and a simple, but all important, insistence that all citizens be treated with dignity and respect.

Serving as the first black president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela fought and sacrificed for civil rights in his home country. To Nelson Mandela, all were equal—peace and justice were to be shared among all races, religions, and nationalities. Beyond words, Mandela lived a life of leadership by example. His long and courageous opposition to South Africa's long and violent apartheid and relentless pursuit of freedom and justice was a profound example of moral leadership that will long be remembered.

A man not deterred or discouraged from his goals, Nelson Mandela was determined and unwavering in his fight for liberty. Beyond death, his life continues to serve as a daily inspiration for my public service, and I believe all of us can learn from Mandela's examples in forgiveness, hope, and sacrifice. South Africa and world are better for the example of his life—his work laid the foundations for a bright future in South Africa and his vision of peace has been since shared around the globe.

His faith in God and commitment to the principles of freedom and justice for all are reflected in his favorite scripture from the Apostle Paul found in the 8th Chapter of Romans; 'Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' He would not be separated from his principles of justice for all, no matter the cost.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of South Africa in paying tribute to Mr. Nelson Mandela and his exceptional legacy as a world leader. May his family and all of the lives he touched be consoled and comforted by their faith in the Lord, along with the assurance that the courage of Nelson Mandela will not soon be forgotten.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3547. An act to extend the application of certain space launch liability provisions through 2014.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, tonight, one of the things we did was to take up the National Defense Authorization Act. It was to extend the power of the President.

There were some good things in it. I applaud the inclusion of the conscience exception that would allow members of the military to do as members of the military have done throughout our history—be able to have, for example, a Bible on a desk, which are things that now have begun to result in persecution—and, actually, knocks against the military—things that our greatest Commander in the history of our country, George Washington, felt were noble things. Under this administration's watch, these things have now begun to result in persecution.

When you go back to the bill, the Authorization for Use of Military Force, that was passed on September 18, 2001, when the United States did not even know who had attacked us, it is incredible. I don't fault the legislature at the time, the Congress—the House and the Senate. Americans were scared. Churches and synagogues were packed all over America. I have never seen anything like it in my lifetime the way people especially flocked to churches and were praying fervently. Then after there was not another attack within 90 days, it was as if Americans began to say, Never mind, God. We don't have to worry about that because we haven't been attacked again.

The NDAA is basically added to the Authorization for Use of Military Force against September 11 terrorists. That is the name of it.

It says in section 2(a):

The President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons.

Then it sets out War Powers Resolution requirements consistent with section 8(a):

(1) Of the War Powers Resolution, Congress declares this section as intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution, 50 U.S.C. 1544(b).

It goes on and it is more extensive, and as I say, the NDAA actually modifies and extends things.

When that was passed, we didn't even know who had attacked us. I, obviously, was not here in Congress at the time, but we were afraid and concerned. We didn't know what was going to hit next, but it, perhaps, in retrospect, was a granting of more powers than should have been granted by the Congress because it is subject to being abused.

Fortunately, I don't consider it to have been abused by President Bush. Some blame him for Iraq. I wasn't here at the time, but I can't help but wonder when people supported the numerous successful efforts by President Bush at the United Nations in building a big coalition of countries to support our efforts to curtail Iraq's military efforts of not allowing U.N. inspectors to check on them. I don't blame the Democrats who voted for the authorization to go into Iraq, and I don't blame the Republicans, because Saddam Hussein gave every indication to the people who were in Congress at the time and to the President that he was up to no good. That was a long time ago.

Now we find that the President is using authorities that were granted, and this administration is using authority that was granted to do things like help rebels who we knew at the time in Libya had al Qaeda infused within them. We just didn't know how extensive, and many of us pointed that out. Now, this fall, we see that this administration has sent hundreds of tons of weapons to the Syrian rebels, and we find out that the Syrian rebels who are fighting a cruel dictator named Assad are engaging in more brutality, particularly against Christians, in the original roots where Christianity was born.

These are areas in which Apostle Paul established churches. It is the only city in the world that still speaks the original Aramaic that Jesus was believed to have spoken. This is an amazing place. This isn't just some trivial area in which a few Christians happen to be. This is right to the very founding of the Christian church. So many people came to America to have the freedom to worship without persecution. They fled Europe and fled other places so they could worship without persecution in a Christian church, and now this administration is using incredible powers that were bestowed on the President by Congress to help the wrong people.

I go back to a visit to the Middle East earlier this fall when allies basically were saying, We do not understand what you are doing. The Muslim Brotherhood is that which supports radical Islam, and it was the radical Islamists—the Muslim Brotherhood—that supported the 9/11 attacks. It was the Muslim Brotherhood that basically supported the training and all of the efforts the Taliban was doing. It is the

Muslim Brotherhood that was engaged in trying to take down Qadhafi, which, without American help, they may not have done. It was the Muslim Brotherhood that took control in Egypt and was persecuting Christians as the Coptic Christian Pope, the Egyptian Pope, verified himself in meetings with him this fall. Now, in Syria, you are backing the people who are at war with you? We don't understand.

So it appears that we have gone from being at war, as President Bush talked about, with anyone who has supported the terrorists—you are either with us or you are with them—to now, not only not being at war with those who are at war with us, but to helping them.

□ 2015

As a Christian, to know that votes we have taken in Congress have helped enable this administration to provide weapons, weapons of war, to people who are brutalizing, raping, killing, seeing reports of the beheadings of Christians in Syria.

Though I greatly appreciate some of the things that were included in the NDAA, and in the past I have even helped work on bipartisan agreements, bicameral, with the Senate and the House, worked on an effort to rein in the President's authority to just indefinitely detain American citizens—and I think we had a great solution we worked together to get inserted, so I don't believe the President can do that any longer with the language now being used—I still can't continue to support what we are doing. I hope that we will have a bipartisan effort in the new year to actually end the authorization for use of military force against September 11 terrorists now that we seem to be helping those who are associated with the radical Islamist terrorists instead of being at war with them.

HORIZON INDUSTRIES

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here and congratulate the National Industries for the Blind, that is the NIB, on their 75th anniversary and the great work they do for Texas' First Congressional District.

NIB's mission is to "enhance opportunities for economic and personal independence of persons who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment."

Unfortunately, 70 percent of working-age Americans who are blind are unemployed. However, the NIB is trying to reverse those upsetting trends by providing more employment opportunities for people who are blind through their more than 250 locations across the United States.

Horizon Industries, which is a division of the East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, is located in Tyler, Texas, and currently employs 70 blind and visually impaired individuals. When I visit Horizon Industries, East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, I am overwhelmed with amazement and appreciation for the dedication, the ability, the desire, and the outright help that